

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306476
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARP:BKBODINE

APPROVED BY:NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306476

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0906 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO MOSCOW SANA DEC 21.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0906

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI XJ ET SO AO CU

SUBJECT: WHEREABOUTS OF RAUL CASTRO

1. AS OF MORNING DECEMBER 21, DEFENSE MINISTER RAUL CASTRO HAS APPARENTLY NOT RETURNED TO CUBA FROM ANGOLA. (LAST NOTICE WE HAVE SEEN ON RAUL'S WHEREABOUTS WAS PRESS NOTICE THAT NETO RECEIVED HIM ON DECEMBER 15, BEFORE NETO'S DEPARTURE FOR TANZANIA.) RAUL'S ABSENCE FROM CUBA IS SIGNIFICANT SINCE SOVIET NAVAL CHIEF ADMIRAL SERGEY GORSHKOV HAS BEEN HERE SINCE DECEMBER 16 AT RAUL'S INVITATION. (GORSHKOV TRAVELED TO SANTIAGO DE CUBA ON DECEMBER 19. NO NOTICE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS ON DECEMBER 20 HAS BEEN PROVIDED.)

2. COMMENT: WE WONDER WHETHER RAUL, AFTER DECEMBER 15, MAY HAVE DEPARTED FROM ANGOLA ON UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO ETHIOPIA IN CONNECTION WITH BUILD-UP OF CUBAN ADVISORS THERE. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT MENGISTU VISIT TO HAVANA WAS NEVER PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.) WE ALSO NOTE THAT CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN POLICY KINGPIN CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ STAYED FOR RATHER PROLONGED PERIOD IN IRAQ
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(DECEMBER 15 THROUGH 21) AND THAT HE MADE ONE-DAY TRIP TO PDRY, DECEMBER 20. BASED ON PAST PRECEDENT, SITUATION IN HORN WAS PROBABLY DISCUSSED IN BOTH LOCATIONS. ONE-DAY PDRY STOPOVER MAY ALSO HAVE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR RODRIGUEZ TO CONFER WITH RAUL ON HORN SITUATION, OR, CONCEIVABLY, CARLOS RAFAEL MAY HIMSELF BE HEADED FOR ETHIOPIA.

3. DEPARTMENT OR INFO ADDRESSEE INFORMATION ON ABOVE WOULD BE
WELCOME.
LANE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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